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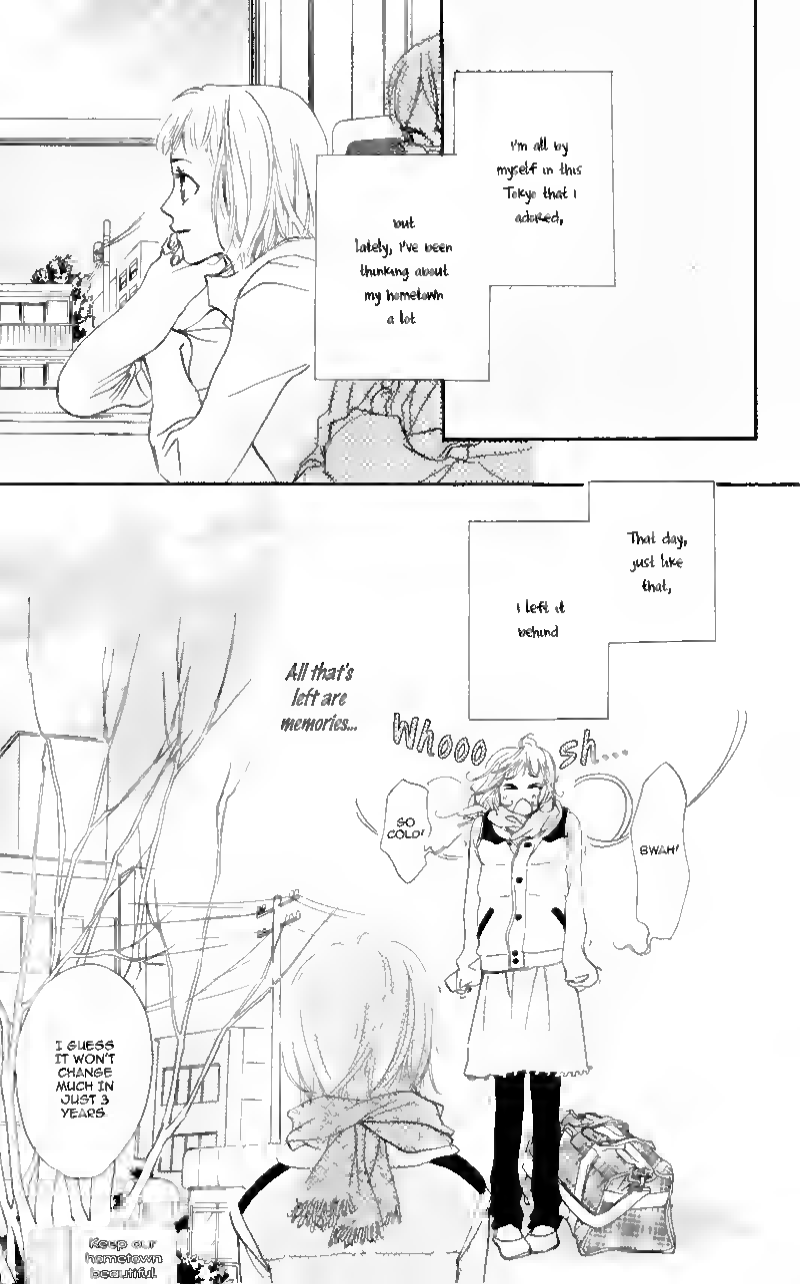
Ano Koro Mo,
Ima Mo

WOW!
a Not Joining
a Joining
Inside the luggage my mom sent to me from the countryside,
there's a postcard from my high school alumni.
HOW NOSTALGIC
I'm Sawauchi Yuko. Three years have passed
since I started living alone in Tokyo.


I'm all by myself in this Tokyo that I adored,
but lately, I've been thinking about my hometown a lot
That day, just like that,
I left it behind
All that's left are memories...
Whooo sh...
SO COLD!
BWAH!
I GUESS IT WON'T CHANGE MUCH IN JUST 3 YEARS
Keep our hometown beautiful

Swoosh
Creak
SAWAUCHI?
Stare...
EH?!
IT'S BEEN A WHILE SINCE I GRADUATED HIGH SCHOOL
I WONDER HOW EVERYONE'S DOING
All that's changed...
are the people I missed.

I KNEW IT
YOU HAVEN'T CHANGED.
IT'S ME, IRISE!
IRISE AKIFUMI.
I-
IRISE?!
YEAH
I THOUGHT YOU SAID THAT YOU MOVED TO TOKYO
WHAT'S WRONG? THE REUNION?
Y-
YEAH
Oooh
THEN I GUESS THERE WILL BE LOTS OF PEOPLE...
Suddenly...
AHAHA!
I'M SO EXCITED.

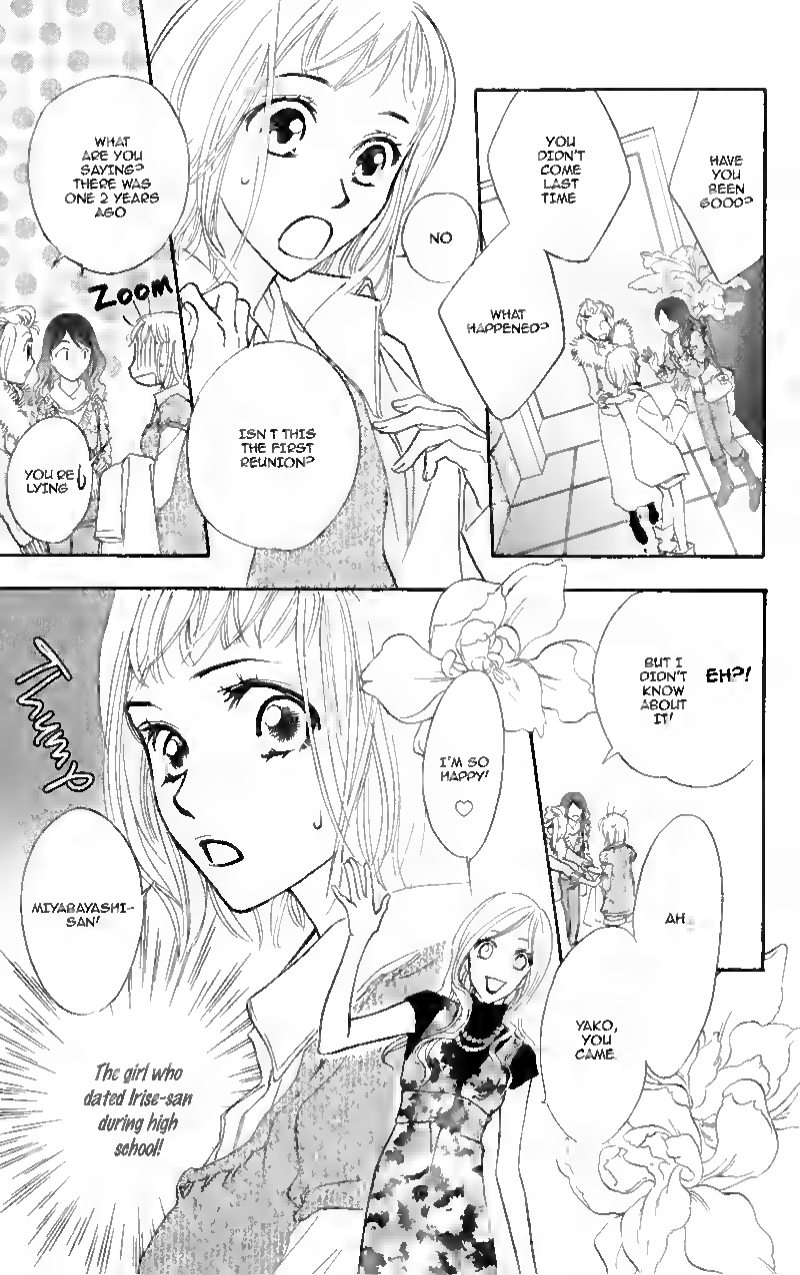
I haven't prepared my heart!!
I
I SEE
LIKE THAT NODA GUY...
HE'S AGED SO MUCH, I WAS SURPRISED.
Thump
Thump
Hase-kun has been my schoolmate since middle school
He's my first love
He's always so nonchalant with me
He's such a friendly person.
You can't stop smiling when you're with him.

He had a girlfriend even before I could confess to him and tell him I loved him.
It sunk quite deeply in my heart.
a faint memory that hasn't disappeared even now...
That's why I thought I could quickly tell him that I used to love him in this reunion.
But I can't do it!!

WHAT IS IT?
ARE YOU LISTENING TO ME?
GULP
I'M LISTENING
OKAY, THEN MAKE SURE YOU COME
THE REUNION.
?
O-
OKAY
Ring
Ring
Rrrr
He hasn't changed at all.
RYYYY
YY

The vivid memories are taking me back to the feelings from that time.
Why am I so attached?!
Hahahaha!
YOU'VE BEEN LIVING IN TOKYO,
BUT YOU HAVEN'T CHANGED AT ALL
Dad
Dad
MIND YOUR OWN BUSINESS!
OH, YOU REALLY CAME HOME
Mom
I M HOME!
It's because I keep on holding to this kind of feeling...
that I can't move forward and find a new love!

You didn't come last time after all.
EH?
Eh?! Yako? It's been a while!!
EHEHE! THE REUNION'S TOMORROW
I'M THINKING THAT WE COULD GO TOGETHER
Ooh, I was wondering what happened...
Yeah, yeah. Let's!
Blah
I wonder if you've changed much. I can't quite imagine you dressing up and becoming like a totally different person.
I thought you've been busy since you're in Tokyo.
Blah
Blah
Blah
Last time?
Eh...?
NO THAT'S NOT TRUE
You're just saying that to catch us off guard.
NO I'M NOT
This is not the first reunion?!
KYAAAA! YAKO IT'S BEEN A WHILE!
Pub
Jenta


WHAT ARE YOU SAYING? THERE WAS ONE 2 YEARS AGO
Zoom
YOU'RE LYING
ISN'T THIS THE FIRST REUNION?
NO
WHAT HAPPENED?
YOU DIDN'T COME LAST TIME
HAVE YOU BEEN GOOD?
Thump
MIYABAYASHI-SAN!
I'M SO HAPPY! ♡
EH?!
BUT I DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT IT!
AH...
YAKO, YOU CAME.
The girl who dated Irise-san during high school!

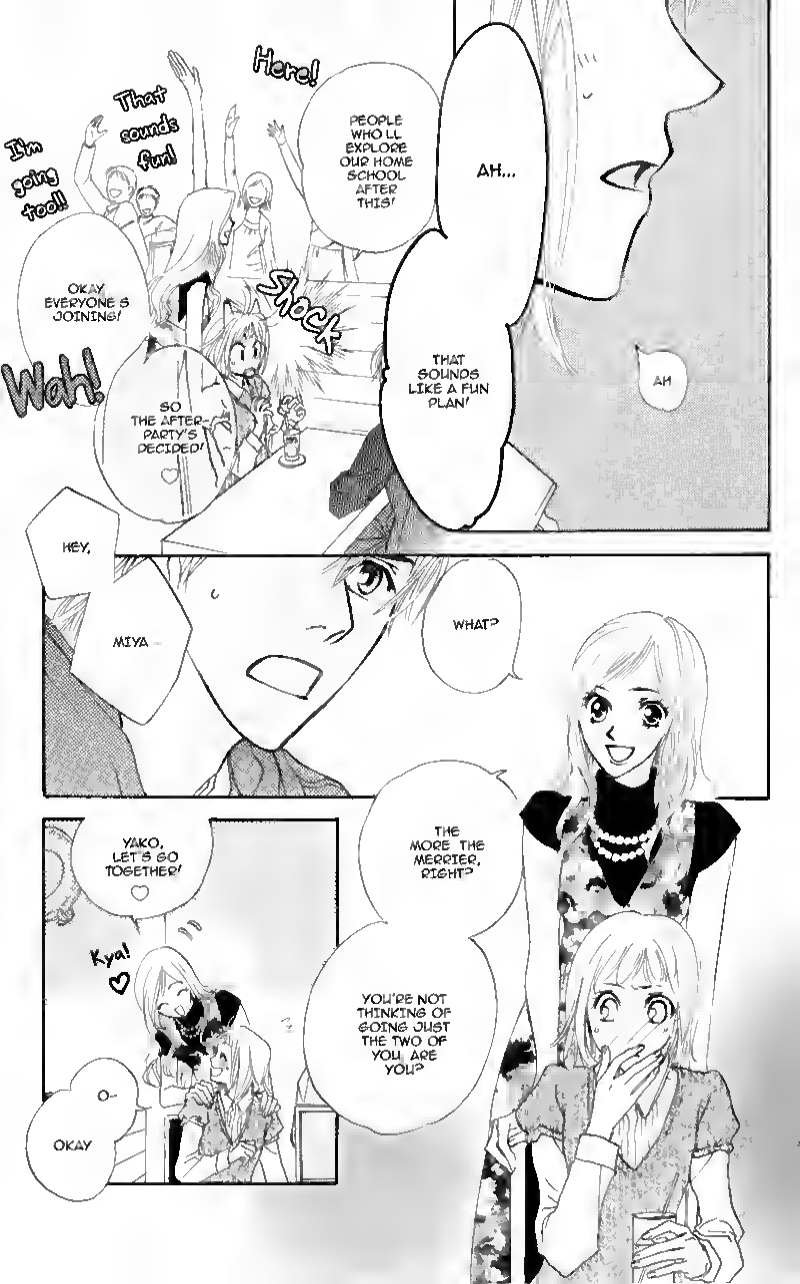
Irise!!
Akifumi
You're finally here.
SERIOUSLY...
Hya!!
I'VE ALWAYS BEEN LOOKING FORWARD TO THE TIME I COULD SEE YOU AGAIN
Clap
THANK YOU
clap
clap
HEY,
AKI
Turns
YOU KNOW, AS A COORDINATOR YOU SHOULD MAKE SURE THAT EVERYONE'S PRESENT.
YEAH
THEN, HAVE FUN.
You're so mean...
I wonder...
if they're still seeing each other...

I GUESS IT'S WHAT PEOPLE SAY THE GRASS IS GREENER ON THE OTHER SIDE
PFFT!
sigh
SHE LOOKS BEAUTIFUL AND STYLISH I ADORE HER SO MUCH
I THOUGHT I COULD BE LIKE THAT IF I GO TO THE CITY
MIYA'S LIKE, SO ADULT
THERE IT IS!
THAT "SAWAUCHI SESSION" HOW NOSTALGIC
WHA?!
NO NOTHING REALLY
DO YOU HAVE TO LAUGH THAT MUCH...?
YOU KNOW, I
REALLY LIKE THAT CUTE PART OF YOU SAWAUCHI
Ah, that was a good laugh

THAT DOESN'T SOUND DEPENDABLE
If you say such nice things, I won't be able to let go!!
JUST BELIEVE ME
YEAH, AT LEAST I DO
I WONDER...
Ba-Thump
IRISE! HELP US OVER HERE FOR A SEC.
YEAH.
I should say it now!
UM YOU KNOW...
How long should I feel this tense?!
I CAN'T SAY MUCH ABOUT THE OTHERS
Giggle Giggle
IRISE-KUN'S SO HIGH SPIRITED.
JUST LIKE OLD TIMES
SORRY.
LATER.
AH!

HE WASN'T LIKE THIS DURING THE LAST REUNION
HE LOOKED BORED AND WENT HOME QUITE EARLY
HE'S BEEN LIKE THAT EVER SINCE HE STARTED GOING OUT WITH MIYA
MAYBE IT'S BECAUSE EVERYONE CONSIDERS THEM THE GOOD-LOOKING COUPLE
THERE'S A LIMIT TO IT
BUT I THINK IRISE'S MORE LIKE HIMSELF RIGHT NOW...
EVER SINCE THEY BROKE UP I THINK
THEY BROKE UP?!
YOU DIDN'T KNOW?
IT'S ABOUT A YEAR AFTER WE GRADUATED, I THINK
WHY?! HOW COME?!
THEY WERE SUCH A GOOD COUPLE
IF YOU'RE THAT CURIOUS, THEN YOU SHOULD ASK THEM
THEY SHOULD KNOW IT THE BEST
Clack

HEY YOU!
IRISE!
YAKO WANTS TO TALK TO YOU
EH?!
WAI-U
THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUMMON
SUMMONING ME COSTS QUITE A LOT
WHAT'S THAT? JUST HOW MUCH?
PFFH
LET'S SEE...
HAVE A WEEK OF NOSTALGIC HIGH SCHOOL LIFE WITH ME
HOW'S THAT?


AH...
PEOPLE WHO'LL EXPLORE OUR HOME SCHOOL AFTER THIS!
Here!
That sounds fun!
I'm going too!!
AH
THAT SOUNDS LIKE A FUN PLAN!
OKAY EVERYONE'S JOINING!
Shock
Wah!
SO THE AFTER-PARTY'S DECIDED!
HEY, MIYA—
WHAT?
THE MORE THE MERRIER, RIGHT?
YAKO, LET'S GO TOGETHER!
Kya!
YOU'RE NOT THINKING OF GOING JUST THE TWO OF YOU, ARE YOU?
O-OKAY

Oh no...
I was being all happy by myself...
I even thought it was my chance to confess.
WELL, THEN, WE'LL CHANGE VENUES
Yay!
How should I tell it to him..
with this many people?
No, the more I try to prepare, the more I couldn't say it.
More like, it's becoming awkward...
YAKO
More naturally...

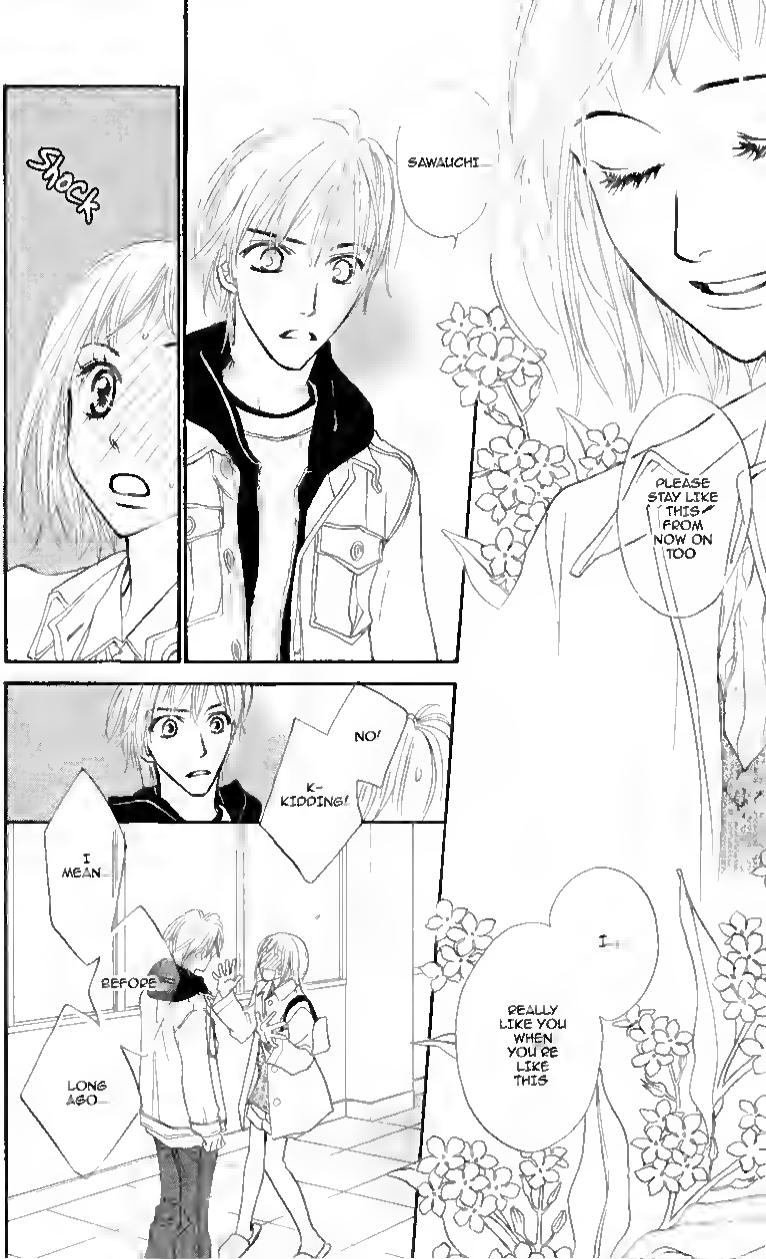
Classic
HE'S LIKE THAT TO EVERYONE
WHAT DO YOU
YOU SHOULDN'T BELIEVE AKI'S WORDS
EH?
HE GIVES PEOPLE HOPE, ALTHOUGH HE DOESN'T THINK MUCH OF IT
I COULDN'T FORGIVE THAT AND BROKE UP WITH HIM.
I see...
BUT HE HASN'T CHANGED AT ALL—
And...
I COULDN'T FORGIVE HIM AS LONG AS HE DOESN'T FIX THAT
He's like that to everyone.

I still...
Even now,
he still loves Miya.
Every single word from Irise...
is enough to make my heart rumble.
OKAY
KEEP THE THINGS I SAID A SECRET
IT'S NO USE IF HE DOESN'T REALIZE IT HIMSELF
WOW!
HOW NOSTALGIC...
love him even now as well
That's why I want to hurry up and get it over with.
Kyahahahaha!
HEY, LOOK AT THIS
IT'S STILL LEFT HERE
THE SCHOOL AT NIGHT
SEEMS LIKE INSIDE A DREAM
HOW COULD I SEE THIS KIND OF DREAM?
THE SCAR HIGUMAN LEFT!
That monster!
STEP
STEP

IRISE
UM, I
YEAH?
ACTUALLY
HAVE SOMETHING I WANTED TO TELL YOU ALL THIS TIME
YEAH?
AH!
HEY... YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE SO CLOSE...
I JUST WANT TO BE CLOSER WHY NOT?

SHE SHOULDN'T THROW AWAY LETTERS ADDRESSED TO ME...
Really...
I SHOULD ASK MY MOTHER ABOUT IT LATER
Thump Thump
BUT YOU REPLIED, RIGHT?
YOU TICKED THE 'NOT JOINING" BOX
I TOLD YOU I DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT IT!
Th-
I THOUGHT I COULD SEE YOU AT THE REUNION, BUT YOU DIDN'T COME AT ALL!
I'M NOT LYING
I SAW IT!
ARE YOU TRYING TO DECEIVE ME...?
EH?!
I DON'T REMEMBER THAT!!
YOU'RE LYING...
THAT WAS REALLY COLD
I'VE WRITTEN YOU A MESSAGE AND EVERYTHING
Not joining
Joining
Notice: Sure you correct?
From Miya
MIYA WAS THE ORGANIZER SO SHE ASKED ME TO HELP HER
Aki help me for a while.
Tsk

PFFT!
COULD IT BE A DOPPEL-GANGER?!
Bwahahaha
IMPOSSIBLE!!
IT'S NOT SOMETHING TO LAUGH ABOUT!!
BUT I CAN'T HELP IT!!
My stomach hurts!!
AH, BUT I'M GLAD.
I THOUGHT WE COULDN'T TALK LIKE BEFORE EVER AGAIN
Even though you don't think anything of it..?
Even so, it's fine...
Throb
I'M HAPPY TOO.
TO THINK THAT I COULD TALK WITH YOU LIKE ALWAYS

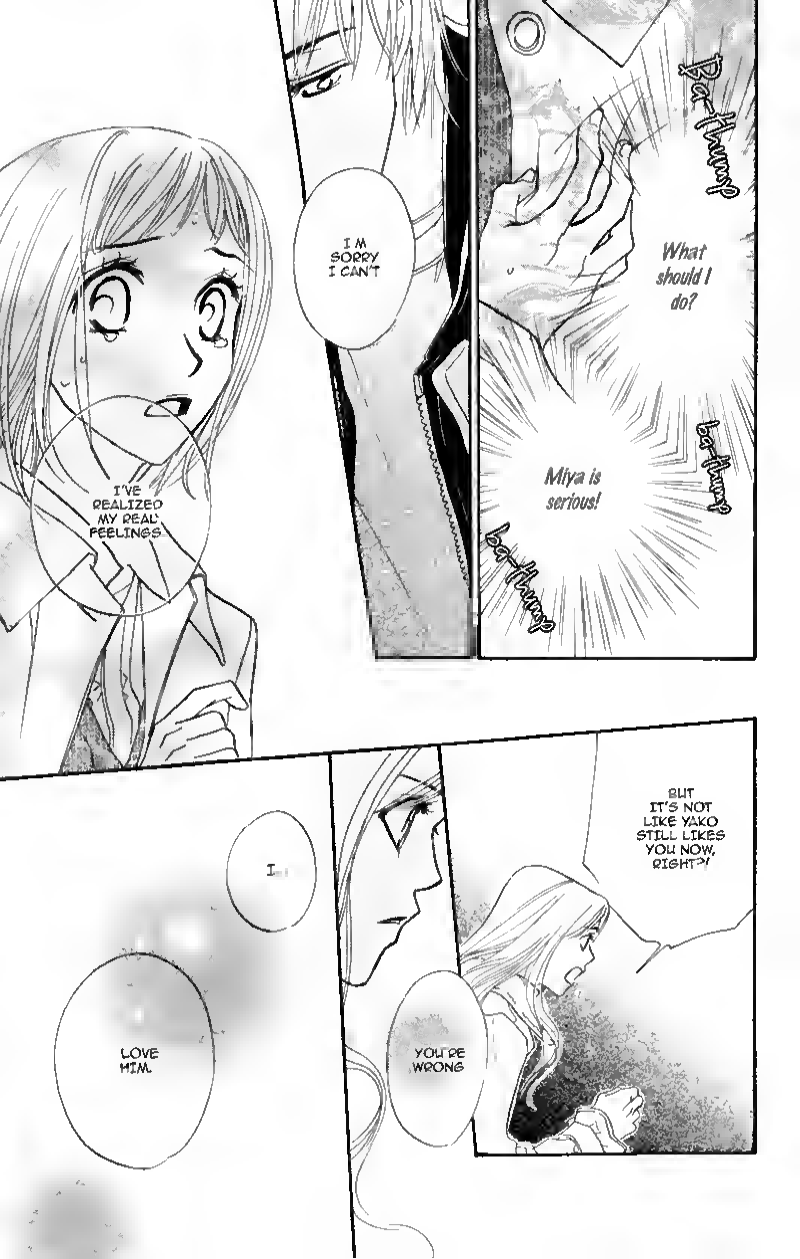

Shock
SAWAUCHI...
PLEASE STAY LIKE THIS FROM NOW ON TOO
NO!
K-KIDDING!
I MEAN...
BEFORE...
LONG AGO...
I...
REALLY LIKE YOU WHEN YOU'RE LIKE THIS

I
SIGH
TOO BAD
STILL LIKE YOU NOW
Re-thump
AH
HUH?
I'M HAPPY EVEN THOUGH YOU WERE JOKING
YOU IDIOT!
I'M SERIOUS!

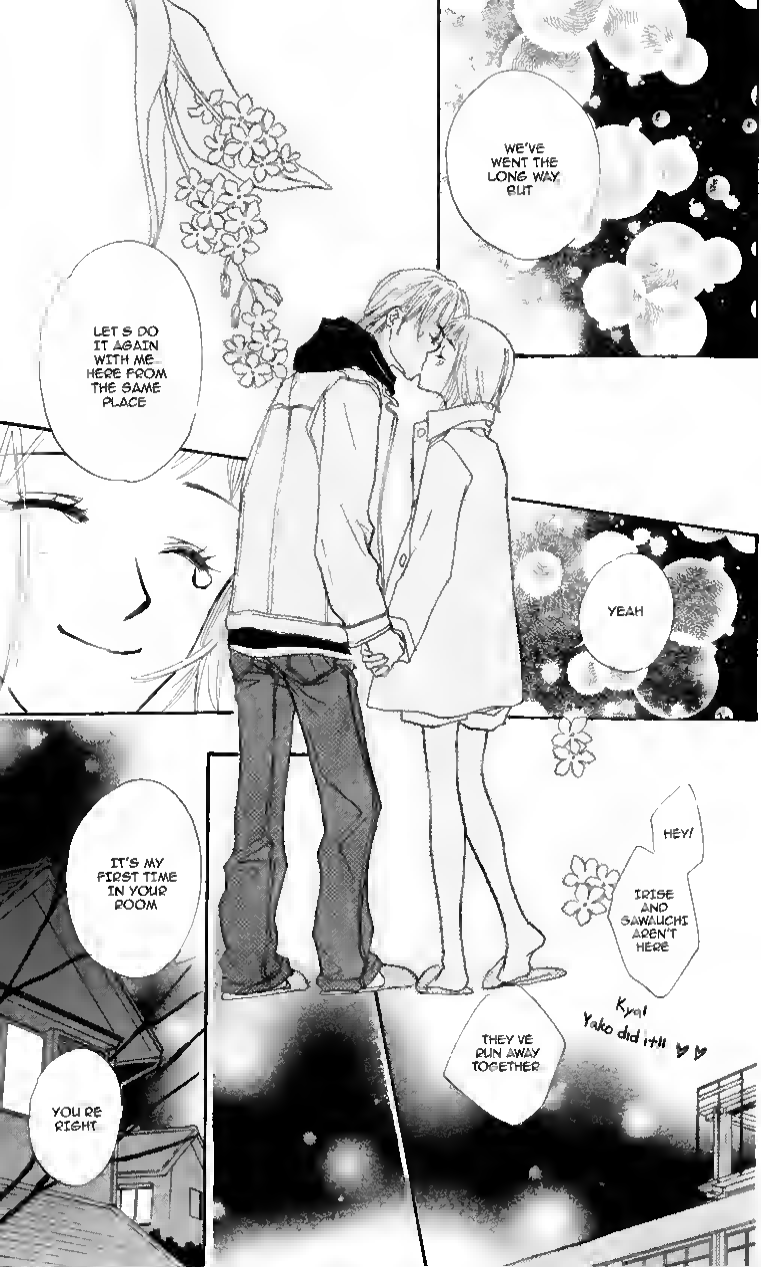
IT MIGHT TAKE A WHILE FOR YOU TO ANSWER THIS,
BUT THE TIMES WHEN WE TALKED AND HAD FUN TOGETHER
JUST BY REMEMBERING THEM, MY CHEST FEELS HOT
AND I REALIZED THAT I MUST'VE LOVED YOU!
YOU'RE THE WORST
MIYA?!
!
MIYA!
YAKO YOU MUSTN'T TAKE THAT SERIOUSLY
AKI IS GOOD AT THAT KIND OF THING
HEY DON'T MISLEAD!
WHAT THE HECK? IT'S NOT LIKE I SAID IT BECAUSE I WANT TO!

IT'S ALWAYS BEEN HER!
SAWAUCHI IS THE ONLY ONE I LIKE
THAT WAS WHEN WE WERE GOING OUT, RIGHT?!
MIYA
I'M SORRY.
I DIDN'T WANT YAKO TO COME!!
THAT'S WHY I HATED IT.

EVEN WHEN YOU'RE GOING OUT WITH ME, ALL YOU TALK ABOUT IS YAKO
YOU DIDN'T KNOW HOW PATHETIC I FELT!
COULD IT BE? THE POSTCARD FOR YAKO...
BUT...
IT'S ALL AKI'S FAULT!
I SEE
YOU'RE RIGHT
I'M SORRY...
I WAS WRONG...
IT'S ALL MY FAULT
!
I STILL LIKE AKI EVEN NOW
I WANT TO START OVER


I'M SORRY I CAN'T
I'VE REALIZED MY REAL FEELINGS
Ba-thump
What should I do?
Miya is serious!
ba-thump
ba-thump
BUT IT'S NOT LIKE YAKO STILL LIKES YOU NOW, RIGHT?!
YOU'RE WRONG
I
LOVE HIM.

SAWAUCHI
THEN YOU SHOULD'VE SAID SO FROM THE START!
YOU'RE ALL SO HORRIBLE!!
I'M SORR
I'VE ALWAYS LOVED IRISE
BUT I COULD NEVER SAY IT
I COULDN'T REALLY FORGET ABOUT IT
YOU'VE ALWAYS
FELT THAT WAY
YEAH
ABOUT ME?
YEAH

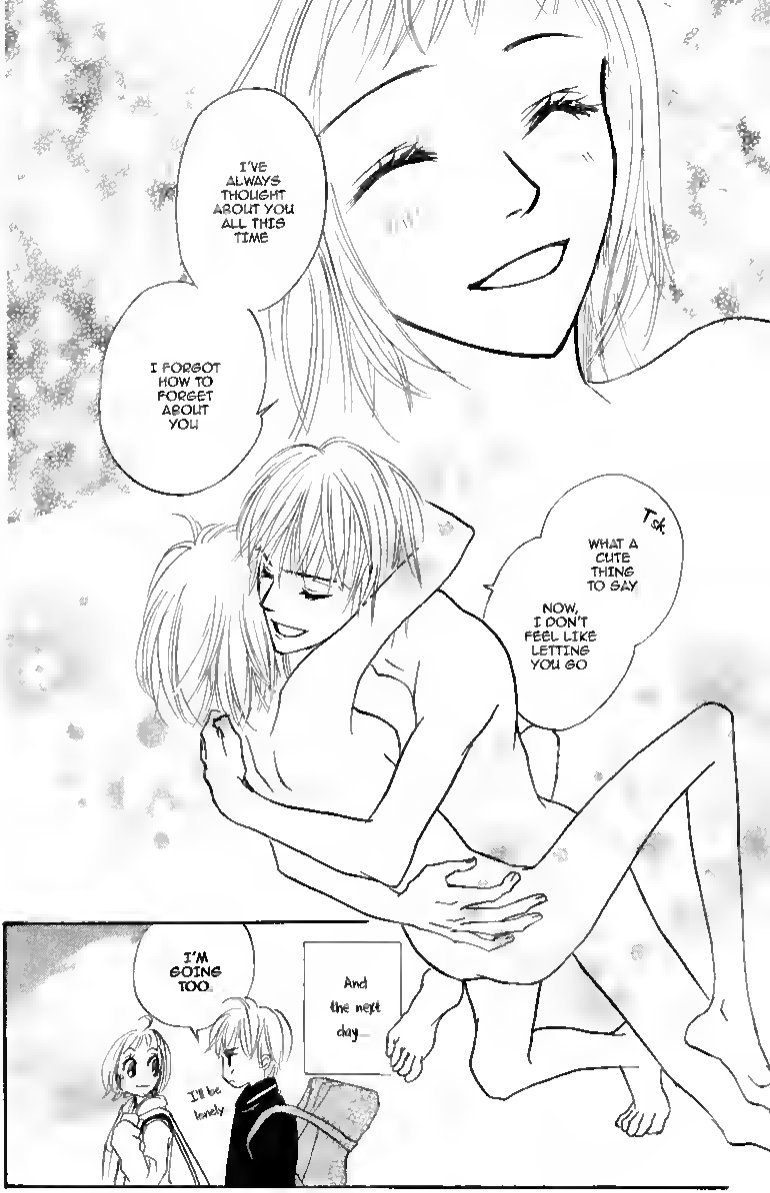

WE'VE WENT THE LONG WAY BUT
LET S DO IT AGAIN WITH ME HERE FROM THE SAME PLACE
YEAH
IT'S MY FIRST TIME IN YOUR ROOM
YOU RE RIGHT
HEY!
IRISE AND SAWAUCHI AREN'T HERE
Kya!
Yako did it!!!
THEY VE RUN AWAY TOGETHER

Eh?!
NO WAY!
SO THAT MEANS...
LET'S SEE, WE ONLY HAVE AROUND 46 HOURS TO BE TOGETHER?
Hmm?
Tick
Tick
Tick
Tap
SAWAUCHI, WHEN WILL YOU RETURN TO TOKYO?
TOMORROW EVENING, I THINK
TENSE
WE DON'T HAVE TIME TO SLEEP!
Pfft-!
HEY?
YEAH
Chuckle
NO IT'S REALLY NOT A LAUGHING MATTER

Tense
HYAH!
YOUR FINGERS
SO COLD!
WE WON'T FEEL LONELY
SO THAT UNTIL WE MEET AGAIN,
LET'S MAKE SO MUCH LOVE
Snuggle ♡
OH YOU!
SAWAUCHI'S BOOBIES ARE SO WARM! ♡
IT FEELS GOOD.
EH?
THEN,
LET ME WARM YOU WITH MY MOUTH
Oh!
YOUR NIPPLES ARE GOING UP! ♡
YOU IDIOT!

Throb
AH
Throb
Throb
Irise's tongue is so soft.
licks
It feels good.
KISS
BLUSH

NO, WAI-
IT'S DIRTY!
WHA- WHAT?!
I TOLD YOU I'LL WARM YOU
NO IT'S NOT
NNH
ANH
I WILL REMEMBER SAWAUCHI WITH ALL MY FIVE SENSES,
SO I WANT YOU TO REMEMBER ALL OF ME
OKAY


I'VE ALWAYS THOUGHT ABOUT YOU ALL THIS TIME
I FORGOT HOW TO FORGET ABOUT YOU
Tsk.
WHAT A CUTE THING TO SAY
NOW, I DON'T FEEL LIKE LETTING YOU GO
I'M GOING TOO.
And the next day—
I'll be lonely

Ano Koro Mo, Ima Mo
Published in Renai Tengoku in the April 2007 issue

DID YOU HEAR THAT STAFFING IN MIDNIGHT SCANS HAS GOTTEN MORE CHAOTIC THAN EVER?
WE SHOULD LEND THEM A HAND IN RECRUITING FOR MORE SMUT AND SHOUJO RELEASES.
EH... IT CONCERNS ME HOW?
I CAN'T DO ANYTHING LIKE EDITING. CLEANING. TYPESETTING OR PROOF-READING.
ALL I NEED TO DO IS CHARM THEM WITH MY KILLER SMILE!
FINE.. FINE! I'LL HELP!
If you want it, you'll get it!!!
YES. YOU DO THAT...
AND PERHAPS ENSLAVE YOURSELF TO THOSE RABID FANGIRLS. YOU'LL DO FINE!
WHAT?!

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